

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 063036
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 H-01 INR-05 PM-03
PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /046 R

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S/S: SGOLDSMITH

-----221014Z 034698 /21

R 220250Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 063036

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA, US

SUBJECT: ARREST OF KING SAVANG VATTHANA

REF: 1. MANILA 4117, 2. VIENTIANE 544 (NOTAL), 3. FBIS 16,
19 MARCH 1977

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ANY REPEAT ANY U.S.G. ACTION TO
MOUNT EFFORT ON BEHALF OF KING SAVANG VATTHANA WOULD
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PAGE 02 STATE 063036

LIKELY FURTHER PREJUDICE KING'S POSITION. LPDR HAS NOT
YET, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ARREST OF KING,
BUT OFFICIAL MOSCOW BROADCAST LINKED KING'S ARREST TO
HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH PLOT ORGANIZED BY QUOTE REACTIONARIES
UNQUOTE AND THE QUOTE CIA UNQUOTE. EMBASSY VIENTIANE
REPORTS THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TOLD IN SEMINARS IN
VIENTIANE THAT KING WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE HE WAS IN

CAHOOTS WITH REACTIONARIES AND AMERICANS (REF 2).

2. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY ACTION USG TAKES OR INSPIRES
ON BEHALF OF KING WOULD PROBABLY LEAK AND THEREBY SERVE
TO SUBSTANTIATE CHARGE AGAINST KING IN LPDR VIEW.

3. WE HAVE SEEN ONLY ONE REPORT THAT KING HAS BEEN QUOTE
CONDEMNED TO DEATH UNQUOTE AND THAT FROM BANGKOK THAI
LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER DAO SIAM WHICH CITES ITS SOURCE ONLY

AS QUOTE A REPORT FROM VIENTIANE UNQUOTE. WOULD APPRE-
CIATE VIENTIANE AND BANGKOK'S COMMENTS ON THIS THAI
NEWSPAPER REPORT.

4. DESPITE OUR CONCLUSIONS THAT USG ACTIONS WOULD
BOOMERANG, WE ARE FOLLOWING KING'S SITUATION AS CLOSELY
AS WE CAN AND WILL BE LOOKING FOR DISCREET WAYS WE OR
OTHERS MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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